



California Department of Veterans Affairs

VETERANS NEWS

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NEWS FROM THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

PRESIDENT BUSH SIGNS H.R. 4986 THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008 INTO LAW

SACRAMENTO – "It is only right that our country responds with compassion when our military men and women return from their tours of duty," said California Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Tom Johnson. "We are pleased that President Bush signed H.R. 4986 with its provision extending eligibility for veteran medical benefits from two years to five years for combat veterans. America's heroes deserve nothing less."

"As H.R. 4986 is implemented, the California Department of Veterans Affairs will work with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to keep the veterans of California informed regarding this important benefit," Johnson said.

Following is the President's announcement of his signing H.R. 4986:

Today, I have signed into law H.R. 4986, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008. The Act authorizes funding for the defense of the United States and its interests abroad, for military construction, and for national security-related energy programs.

Provisions of the Act, including sections 841, 846, 1079, and 1222, purport to impose requirements that could inhibit the President's ability to carry out his constitutional obligations to take care that the laws be faithfully executed, to protect national security, to supervise the executive branch, and to execute his authority as Commander in Chief. The executive branch shall construe such provisions in a manner consistent with the constitutional authority of the President.

GEORGE W. BUSH

THE WHITE HOUSE,

January 28, 2008.

Note to editors: This Veterans News and previous CDVA news releases, advisories, and newsletters are available on our website at www.cdva.ca.gov and via email from Jaime.Arteaga@cdva.ca.gov.